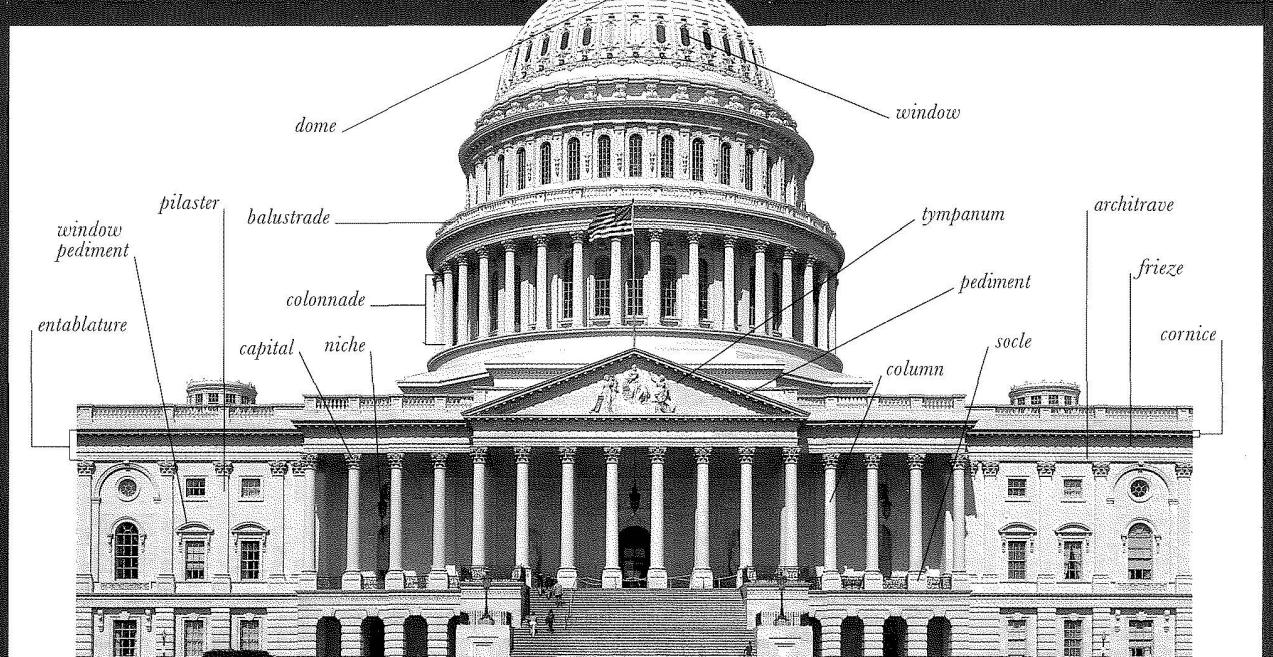


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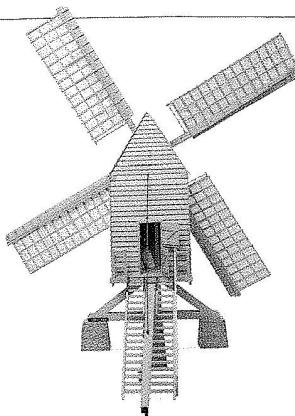
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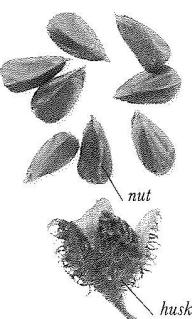
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mast

mast¹ /mæst/ *n. & v. o. n.* **1** a long upright post of timber, iron, etc., set up from a ship's keel or deck, esp. to support sails. ▷ **DINGHY**, **SAILBOAT**. **2** a post or latticework upright for supporting a radio or television antenna. **3** a flagpole (*half-mast*). • *vt.* furnish (a ship) with masts. □ **masted** *adj.* (also in *comb.*)



**MAST: BEECH
MAST**

MAST *n.* **1** the fruit of the beech, oak, chestnut, and other forest trees, esp. as food for pigs. **2** *n.* **1** *Archaeol.* an ancient Egyptian tomb with sloping sides and a flat roof. **2** a bench, usu. of stone, attached to a house in Islamic countries. **3** *n.* **1** *Surgery* the removal of breast tissue. **4** *n.* **1** a person having control of persons or things. **2** an employer, esp. of a servant. **3** a male head of a household (*master of the house*). **4** the owner of a dog, horse, etc. **5** the owner of a slave. **6** *Naut.* the captain of a merchant ship. **7** *Hunting* the person in control of a pack of hounds, etc. **8** *esp. Brit.* a male teacher or tutor, esp. a schoolmaster. **9** *n.* **1** the head of a private school, etc. **2** the presiding officer of a Masonic lodge, etc. **3** a person who has or gets the upper hand. **4** a person skilled in a particular trade and able to teach others (often *attrib.*: *master carpenter*). **5** a holder of a university degree orig. giving authority to teach in the university (*Master of Arts*). **6** *n.* **1** a revered teacher in philosophy, etc. **2** (*the Master*) Christ. **3** a great artist. **4** *Chess*, etc., a player of proven ability at international level. **5** *n.* **1** an original version (e.g., of a film or audio recording) from which copies can be made. **6** *(Master)* a title prefixed to the name of a boy not old enough to be called *Mr.* (*Master T. Jones; Master Tom*). **7** *n.* **1** a machine or device directly controlling another (cf. *SLAVE* 4). • *adj.* **1** commanding, superior (*a master spirit*). **2** main; principal (*master bedroom*). **3** controlling others (*master plan*). • *vt.* **1** overcome; defeat. **2** reduce to subjection. **3** acquire complete knowledge of (a subject) or facility in using (an instrument, etc.). **4** rule as a master. □ **be master of** *1* have at one's disposal. **2** know how to control. **be one's own master** be independent or free to do as one wishes. □ **masterless** *adj.* **mastership** /mæstərʃɪp/ *n.*

masterful /mæstər'fʊl/ *adj.* **1** imperious; domineering. **2** masterly. ▷ Normally used of a person, whereas *masterly* is used of achievements, abilities, etc. □ **masterfully** *adv.* **masterfulness** *n.*

master key *n.* a key that opens several locks, each of which also has its own key.

masterly /mæstərlē/ *adj.* worthy of a master; very skillful (*a masterly piece of work*). □ **masterliness** *n.*

mastermind /mæstərmɪnd/ *n. & v. o. n.* **1** a person with an outstanding intellect. **b** such an intellect. **2** the person directing an intricate operation. • *vt.* plan and direct (a scheme or enterprise).

masterpiece /mæstərpiece/ *n.* **1** an outstanding piece of artistry or workmanship. **2** a person's best work.

masterstroke *n.* an outstandingly skillful act of policy, etc.

master switch *n.* a switch controlling the supply of electricity, etc., to an entire system.

masterwork *n.* a masterpiece.

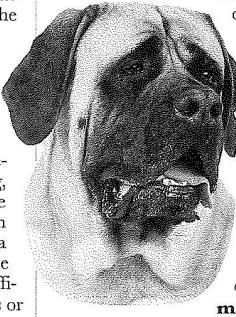
mastery /mæstərē/ *n.* **1** dominion; sway. **2** masterly skill. **3** (often foll. by *of*) comprehensive knowledge or use of a subject or instrument. **4** (prec. by *the*) the upper hand.

masthead /mæst'hed/ *n. & v. o. n.* **1** the highest part of a ship's mast, esp. as a place of observation or punishment. **2** *a* the title of a newspaper, etc., at the head of the front or editorial page. **b** the printed notice in a newspaper, magazine, etc., giving details of staff, ownership, etc. • *vt.* **1** send (a sailor) to the masthead. **2** raise (a sail) to its position on the mast.

mastic /mæstɪk/ *n.* **1** a gum or resin exuded from the bark of the mastic tree, used in making varnish. **2** (in full *mastic tree*) the evergreen tree, *Pistacia lentiscus*, yielding this. **3** a waterproof filler and sealant used in building. **4** a liquor flavored with mastic gum.

masticate /mæstɪkeɪt/ *vt.* **1** grind or chew (food) with one's teeth. □ **mastication** /-káyshən/ *n.* **2** *masticatory* /-kətawree/ *adj.*

mastiff /mæstɪf/ *n.* **1** *a* a dog of a large strong breed with drooping ears and pendulous lips. **2** this breed of dog.



MASTIFF

mastitis /mæstɪtɪs/ *n.* an inflammation of the mammary gland in the breast or udder. **mas-to-don** /mæstədən/ *n.* a large extinct mammal of the genus *Mammut*, resembling the elephant. □ **mas-to-don-tic** /-dóntɪk/ *adj.*

mas-toid /mæstɔɪd/ *n.* **1** a conical prominence on the bone behind the ear, to which muscles are attached. ▷ *EAR*. **2** *colloq.* mastoiditis.

mas-toid-i-tis /mæstɔɪdɪtɪs/ *n.* inflammation of the mastoid process.

mas-tur-bate /mæstərbəte/ *vt.* **1** *intr.* & *tr.* arouse oneself sexually or cause (another person) to be aroused by manual stimulation of the genitals. □ **mas-tur-ba-tion** /-bəshən/ *n.* **2** **mas-tur-ba-tor** *n.* **3** **mas-tur-ba-tory** /-tɔrbətawree/ *adj.*

mat¹ /mat/ *n. & v. o. n.* **1** a piece of coarse material for wiping shoes on, esp. a doormat. **2** a piece of cork, rubber, plastic, etc., to protect a surface from the heat or moisture of an object placed on it. **3** a piece of resilient material for landing on in gymnastics, wrestling, etc. **4** a piece of coarse fabric of plaited rushes, straw, etc., for lying on, packing furniture, etc. **5** a small rug. • *u.* (matted, matting) **1** *a* *tr.* (esp. as *matted adj.*) entangle in a thick mass (*matted hair*). **b** *intr.* become matted. **2** *tr.* cover or furnish with mats.

mat² var. of *MATTE*.

mat³ /mat/ *n.* = **MATRIX** 1.

mat-a-dor /mætədawr/ *n.* ▷ a bullfighter whose task is to kill the bull.

matador



MATADOR AND BULL

match¹ /mætʃ/ *n. & v. o. n.* **1** a contest or game in which persons or teams compete against each other. **2** *a* a person able to contend with another as an equal (*meet one's match*). **b** a person equal to

another in some quality (*we shall never see his match*). **c** a person or thing exactly like or corresponding to another. **3** a marriage. **4** a person viewed in regard to his or her eligibility for marriage (*an excellent match*). • *v.* **1** *a* *tr.* be equal to or harmonious with (*the curtains match the wallpaper*). **b** *intr.* (often foll. by *with*) correspond; harmonize (*his socks do not match with the ribbon match with your hat?*). **c** (as *matching adj.*) having correspondence in some essential respect (*matching curtains*). **2** *tr.* (fol. by *against, with*) a person, etc., in conflict, contest, or competition with (another). **3** *tr.* find material, etc., that matches (another) (*can you match this silk?*). **4** *tr.* find a person or thing suitable for another (*matching unemployed workers to available jobs*). **5** *tr.* prove to be a match for □ **make a match** bring about a marriage. **to match** corresponding in some essential respect with what has been mentioned (*yellow dress with gloves to match*). □ **match-able** *adj.*

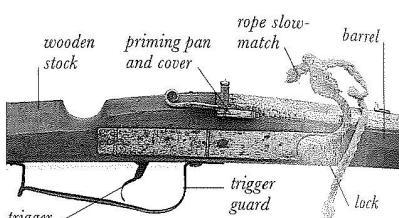
match² /mætʃ/ *n.* **1** a short thin piece of flammable material tipped with a composition that can be ignited by friction. **2** a piece of wick, cord, etc., designed to burn at a uniform rate, for firing a cannon, etc.

match-board /mæchbawrd/ *n.* a board with a tongue cut along one edge and a groove along another, so as to fit with similar boards.

match-box /mæchboks/ *n.* a box for holding matches.

match-less /mæchlɪs/ *adj.* without an equal; incomparable. □ **match-less-ly** *adv.*

match-lock /mæchlok/ *n. hist.* **1** ▷ an old type of gun with a lock in which a match was placed for igniting the powder. **2** such a lock.



**MATCHLOCK: 17TH-CENTURY
GERMAN MATCHLOCK**

match-maker /mæchmækər/ *n.* a person who tries to arrange an agreement or relationship between two parties, esp. a marriage partnership. □ **match-making** *n.*

match point *n. Tennis, etc.* **1** the state of a game when one side needs only one more point to win the match. **2** this point.

match-stick /mæchstɪk/ *n.* the stem of a match.

match-wood /mæchwʊd/ *n.* **1** wood suitable for matches. **2** minute splinters.

mate¹ /mæt/ *n. & v. o. n.* **1** a friend or fellow worker. **2** *a* each of a pair, esp. of animals, birds, or socks. **b** *colloq.* a partner in marriage. **c** (in *comb.*) a fellow member or joint occupant of (*teammate; roommate*). **3** *Naut.* an officer on a merchant ship subordinate to the master. **4** an assistant to a skilled worker (*plumber's mate*). • *u.* (often foll. by *with*) **1** *a* *tr.* bring (animals or birds) together for breeding. **b** *intr.* (of animals or birds) come together for breeding. **2** *a* *tr.* join (persons) in marriage. **b** *intr.* (of persons) be joined in marriage. **3** *intr.* *Mech.* fit well. □ **mate-less** *adj.*

mate² /mæt/ *n. & v. tr.* *Chess* = **CHECK-MATE**.

mate-té /mætay/ *n.* **1** an infusion of the leaves of a S. American shrub, *Ilex paraguayensis*. **2** this shrub, or its leaves. **3** a vessel in which these leaves are infused.